

**TOWN OF PLYMOUTH SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES BUDGET WORKSESSION  
MAY 2, 2022 VIA TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND ZOOM  
6:00 p.m.**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Vershumn Hawkins – 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Hawkins opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees that were in person and via ZOOM. The Mayor then called the meeting to order and asked the Town Clerk to proceed with a Roll Call:

PRESENT	ABSENT	COUNCILMEMBER
X		Councilwoman Brooks
	X	Councilman Arnold
X		Councilwoman Byers
X		Councilwoman Teel
X		Councilwoman Williams
X		Councilman Wobbleton
X		Mayor Hawkins
TOTAL		
6		

Mayor Hawkins explained to citizens that this is a Special Meeting that pertains to the 2022 – 2023 budget and there will be no time to discuss any other topic than that. The opening prayer was offered by Councilman Wobbleton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Hawkins.

**II. WORK SESSION ON PROPOSED FY 2022 – 2023 BUDGET**

Mayor Hawkins turned the floor over to Interim Town Manager Layton. Interim Town Manager Layton presented the April 11, 2022 Power Point Presentation of the proposal that consisted of an Introduction of the proposed budget; an overview of the strategy for FY 2023; setting dates and times for work sessions if needed; setting a Public Hearing at the May 9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting; and, adoption of the final FY 2023 Budget before May 17, 2022.

Interim Town Manager Layton made it clear that the Budget is the Council's budget and would be a starting point for discussion amongst the Council. He also stated that due to the unique circumstances of the elections being held on May 17<sup>th</sup>, the proposed budget has been designed to be a "maintenance" budget with no significant initiatives beyond what have been previously discussed by Council. Interim Town Manager Layton presented the Budget's Priorities and Goals:

- No increase in ad valorem taxes or utility rates
- Continue efforts to improve the aesthetics and safety of the Town
- Implement plans to construct Wilson Street Park
- Desire to adequately and fairly pay employees
- Establish priorities for the use of the American Rescue Plan Grant Funds (ARP)

He presented the dollar amount as well as the composition and expenditures for each fund category. After receiving input from the Council, previous to the meeting, in regard to ARP funds, Interim Town Manager proposed that the following items would qualify for use:

- Wilson Street Park
- Change out of Water Meters
- Sewer Camera
- Police Equipment
  - Downtown Streetscapes
  - Riverfront Improvements
  - Repaving o Roads
  - Demolition of Dilapidated Buildings
  - Police Equipment/Vehicles
  - Fire Equipment/Vehicles
  - Water Projects
  - Sewer Projects

Interim Town Manager Layton reminded the Council that the funds must obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

Councilman Wobbleton asked how long it would be before the Town will need to increase taxes and utility payments. Interim Town Manager Layton replied that he did not think the Town can continue without some kind of increase because the Town can only reimburse from other funds for certain things, and we are now at a point where the Town should not continue to have to use its fund balance. Conversely, he reported that although the Town does not yet have its 2021 Audit, the 2020 Audit showed a contribution of approximately \$200,000 to the fund balance. Interim Town Manager stated that he projects that the Town will not have to borrow much from the fund balance at this point and, therefore, will not have to increase ad valorem taxes at this time. Interim Town Manager explained that increasing water rates will need to be discussed.

After discussion, Mayor Hawkins asked Council to reach out to Interim Town Manager Layton to discuss any questions they might have before the upcoming regular Council meeting. Mayor Pro-Tempore Brooks asked that \$5,000 in funding be put back into the budget for Recreation under Special Appropriation for future recreation projects and maintenance of equipment. She also discussed the crossing signals at the school and asked that two more sets of pedestrian controlled signals be put on Main Street; a set for the corner of Social Services and a set for the corner of the Courthouse. Mayor Hawkins asked if Interim Town Manager Layton could obtain data as to how many people utilize those crosswalks. Interim Town Manager Layton added that he will need to speak with the Department of Transportation (DOT), as it is a DOT road. He also stated that he will research specifics and report costs at the next Council meeting.

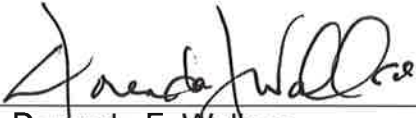
### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more discussions, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Williams with a second by Councilman Wobbleton. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Hawkins', written over a horizontal line.

Vershumn "Shawn" Hawkins  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorenda Wallace', written over a horizontal line.

Dorenda F. Wallace  
Town Clerk